

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-28 were pending in the present application. Claims 7-12, 15-17, 21-24, and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of this reply. Thus, claims 1-6, 13-14, 18-20, 25, and 27-28 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1, 13, 18, 25, and 27 are independent, while claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, claim 14 depends from claim 13, claims 19-20 depend from claim 18, and claim 28 depends from claim 27.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 13, 25, and 27 have been amended by way of this reply. Claims 13, 25, and 27 have been rewritten into independent form. Claims 7-12, 15-17, 21-24, and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-6 and 18-20 are allowed, and that claims 13, 14, 25, 27, and 28 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 13, 25, and 27 have been rewritten into independent form. Thus, Claims 13, 25, and 27 now stands allowable. Claim 14 depends from claim 13, and claim 28 depends from claim 27. Thus, claims 14 and 28 also now stand allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102


Claims 7-12, 15-17, 21-24, and 26 of the present application were rejected under U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,691,625 ("Kumar"). Claims 7-12, 15-17, 21-24, and 26 have been canceled. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591, Reference 17286/035001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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